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ABSTRACT

This book addresses the contemporary realities of schools and teaching, focusing on both the constraints and possibilities embedded in practice. It uses the words and experiences of teachers and principals to show what growth and change look like from the inside, focusing on what change requires, how differences in context and personnel are accommodated, what people learn as they change, and what it feels like in the process. Five chapters examine: (1) "Transforming Schooling and Teaching: What Matters and What Works" (approaches to school change, building blocks for transforming education, tensions, and what works); (2) "The New Social Realities of Teaching" (making transitions and new challenges); (3) "Recreating Leadership: Values, Visions, and Action" (teacher directors in "created" schools, innovative principals in "recreated" schools, leading from values and visions, and connecting leading, learning, and teaching); (4) "Professional Development for the New Social Realities of Teaching" (underlying processes of teacher development, teacher career development and personal change, and transforming professional development); and (5) "Toward an Era of Hope, Passion, and Commitment" (fundamentals of school improvement and new understandings about transforming education). Each chapter ends with stories from teachers or principals. (Contains 82 references.) (SM)

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